

Ely House
231 Broadway
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-²²⁵~~255~~

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CONN-255

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ELY HOUSE

Street Address: 231 Broadway, Norwich, New London County, Connecticut

Present Owner and Occupant: Harry Kowalchuk, 231 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: Built about 1850, this medium-sized frame house, with Gothic Revival details, is characteristic of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The house was probably built for a General Ely, an early owner, and later owned by his son. About the end of the nineteenth century the house was occupied by Norman Day and subsequently owned jointly by a Mr. Hurlbutt and William Habekotte. The present owner, Harry Kowalchuk, bought the house in 1928 from Hurlbutt and Habekotte.
- B. Date of erection: About 1850.
- C. Sources of information:
1. Interview with Raymond B. Case, 12 Mediterranean Lane, Norwichtown, Connecticut, October 26, 1960.
 2. Interview with Harry Kowalchuk, 231 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut, October 27, 1960.
 3. Interview with Mrs. Albert H. Chase, 1 Sachem Terrace, Norwich, Connecticut, October 28, 1960.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: Built about 1850, this is a medium-sized frame house, with Gothic Revival details and plan characteristic of the period.
 2. Condition of fabric: Good.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
1. Overall dimensions: The house, cruciform in plan, is two stories high plus attic and cellar. U-shaped porches on opposite ends of the building, one story high, extend the ground plan to a rectangular shape. The overall length of the house is about 70 feet, and the front or southwest wing is about 20 feet wide and projects about 20 feet.

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2. Foundations: Regular ashlar.
3. Wall construction: Frame covered with clapboards with a 4-1/4 inch average exposure.
4. Porches: The U-shaped porches around the three sides of the projecting front and rear arms of the cross-shaped house are identical. They are open porches, one story high, with nearly flat roofs supported on clustered Gothic wood columns with a quatrefoil section.
5. Chimneys: Four chimneys with tall pots on each flue.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main front door is a recent replacement.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The house has double-hung windows, six-light sash over nine-light on the first floor and the southwest front of the second floor. Other second floor windows have six-light sash over six-light. Windows are set in narrow molded frames with labels. There are no shutters. The four gable ends of the roof have small round attic windows with quatrefoil tracery.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Cross-shaped gable roofs covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice: The roof projects slightly with a small coved cornice.
 - c. Dormers: Second-floor windows at the eave sides of the roof project above the eave line making small gabled dormers.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: The main entrance leads into a stair hall in the south corner of the southeast wing of the cruciform house; the opposite or east half of the southeast wing contains the dining room; the kitchen is in the rear or northeast wing; the front parlor in the southwest wing opens from the entrance hall; the front parlor connects with the northwest wing, which contains a second parlor and library. The second floor has bedrooms in a similar arrangement.
2. Stairway: The stairway in the entrance hall is a straight-run, open-string stair with a molded hand rail and turned balusters.

3. Flooring: Hardwood flooring on the first floor; softwood flooring on the second floor. HABS
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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, papered walls. 6. Not
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5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel doors in doorways with Gothic Revival trim.
6. Trim: Molded wood trim with Gothic profiles. First-floor rooms have cornices and wainscotings with gilt moldings.
7. Hardware: Nickel-plated hardware.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: The house has central heating, plus three fireplaces including a black marble fireplace in the second parlor.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces southwest to the street with the main entrance in the southwest side of the southeast wing of the house.
2. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: The house originally had formal gardens; now landscaped informally with trees, shrubs, flowers, and lawn.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
October 1960